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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT
TOPIC Military Information from the Letzling Heath Area.

EVALUATION 50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 7 August 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Observation of the ground on 23 July 1951 shows that there are no fortifications under construction in the area around Haldensleben, Satuelle (M 53/Y 52), Luebberitz, Uthmieden (M 53/Y 42), Derst, Klueden, and Born. No construction crews or concentrations of building materials were observed. A few entrenchments, formerly used in field exercises, were in disrepair. Since the Haldensleben-Letzlingen railroad line has been dismantled, the area was excluded from the railroad net. 50X1-HUM
2. Troops were observed bivouacking in the aforementioned area. The area was guarded by the bivouacked troops. No German Volkspolizei personnel were seen.
3. There were no indications that guided missile launching sites had been built or that there were radar installations. No stockpiling of construction material was seen. *
4. In the morning of 23 July, gasoline barrels and potatoes were transloaded from boxcars into trucks at the Haldensleben freight yard. no troops arrived there during the two weeks preceding 23 July, but one train with tanks and one train with artillery pieces had departed during that time. 50X1-HUM
5. Excavations for protecting motor vehicles, foxholes, and slit trenches were observed about 2 km southeast of the village of Satuelle. Just east of Satuelle, there was a tent camp which quartered 40 to 50 signal men. The soldiers operated a nearby four-mast radio station. The masts were 8 to 10 meters high. the signal unit had arrived there on 13 July. Truck was seen in Satuelle. 50X1-HUM
6. 500 to 600 artillery troops have been bivouacking about 1 km southwest of Luebberitz since the end of June. The troops were said to be equipped with 12 artillery pieces and 20 to 30 trucks. 50X1-HUM

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7. Four T-34/85 tanks were seen driving northward through Dorst. They were followed by trucks [redacted] about 1,000 soldiers with 30 tanks and numerous trucks were bivouacking 2 km north of the village.

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8. Radio car [redacted] with its 6-meter antenna extended, was parked at a road junction just northwest of Born. [redacted]

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* [redacted] Comment. The information contained in paragraphs 1 through 3 refutes previous rumors which stated that fortifications were under construction on the west side of Metzing Heath. Such rumors have been afloat among the German population in that area for several months but they have never been substantiated [redacted]. The present report strengthens the previous hypothesis that the rumors on the construction of fortifications arose from reconditioning work on the former Hillersleben-Salchau test firing range which began in the spring of 1951.

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[redacted] Comment. [redacted]

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[redacted] Since all of these vehicles were seen in towns only, no definite conclusion can be drawn as to the identity of the units camping or bivouacking.

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